The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 30, 1912, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

AGITATE ORGANIZE EDUCATE

VOL. 16, NO. 11. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, MAY 29, 1926. WHOLE NO. 790.

MORE BUREAUCRACY OPPOSED BY PUBLIC

Washington, May 29.—The executive order to give state, county and municipal officers federal power to enforce the Volstead act is declared "revolutionary" and "indefensible." The protest is nation-wide and includes those who hold opposite views on the act itself. The senate has ordered a committee to inquire into the legality of the order and opposition has gained such momentum that treasury officials have weakened. They say the power will be used "judiciously."

Under the order a state, county or municipal officer can be given a roving federal commission to enter other states. He will be paid a nominal salary. This annuls an order issued by President Grant that a state official can not hold a federal position.

The order has intensified the controversy over the dwindling power of states and the encroachment of federal authority, a tendency which the president deplored in his recent speech at William and Mary college, Williamsburg, Virginia.

The Washington Post, considered a spokesman for the administration, editorially declares that "the placing of state officers under federal control would be a radical departure from the present system of government in the United States."

STANDARD OIL 'UNION' DISCREDITED BY LABOR

Bayonne, N. J., May 29.—With profits that have broken all records, the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey has refused a 10 per cent wage increase to several hundred employes here.

The oil corporation established a company "union," known as the Republic of Labor, but this high-sounding title has failed to raise living standards.

Sentiment among the workers was so pronounced when 125 employes in one department suspended work that the management shut down the entire plant to check a general walkout.

The Republic of Labor is discredited and employes now agree with trade unionists as to the purposes of these company-controlled organizations.

President Teagle of the company assured the employes that he "was sympathetic with a natural and praiseworthy desire of the men to make more money," but there was no system in the company "union" or in business conditions to justify the increase. He said he was paying the prevailing wage.

The workers point to the company's profits and ask if the oil industry, the most prosperous in business today, must trail behind wage rates that are set by organized labor.

STUBBORN EMPLOYERS INDICTED BY PREMIER

London, England, May 29.—In letters to coal miners and owners, Premier Baldwin scores the latter for stubbornness and their incapacity to adjust the dispute.

The mine owners are told that "the premier profoundly disagrees with your association in attributing the troubles in the mining industry to 'political interference.'

The communication to the mine owners opens with the words: "The premier greatly regrets that your association have thought it necessary to adopt the uncompromising attitude conveyed in your letter.

"He deplores your association's apparent inability to recognize it was quite impossible for any government to have stood aside in matters where the national well-being was so vitally and disastrously affected.

"Your association appears to show an inadequate appreciation both of the nature of the proposal and the gravity of the present situation."

DEPICTS FARM RELIEF FROM ELECTRIC POWER

Atlantic City, May 29.—The electrification of rural districts will change farm life, Guy E. Tripp of the Westinghouse Company told the National Electric Light Association, in session here.

"Give the farmer electric power at a reasonable cost," said Mr. Tripp, "and he can relieve himself and family of a large portion of the burden of labor and raise his living standard to a level corresponding to that of the city dweller."

William Allen White, editor and writer of Emporia, Kansas, ridiculed the claim that this country may be controlled by Bolsheviste.

FOOD COSTS GO UP

Washington, May 29.—During the month of March 15 to April 15 food costs increased 1⅛ per cent, according to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. During the year period from April, 1925, costs increased nearly 8 per cent.

TRADE UNION FOE REVIVES ANCIENT LIBEL

Judge Gary agrees with the ancient English king that the ocean tide can be stayed by stern command.

In defending the anti-union shop at the semi-annual meeting of the American Iron and Steel Institute, in New York, the judge made this reference to trade unions:

"Their form of association, their decisions, their collection and distribution of monies, in short, all their methods and acts are not disclosed to the public and, as a rule, the rank and file have little to say and do not have much information in advance as to what their leaders, so called, expect to do in regard to their welfare, or what money is to be raised or expended or how it shall be used. Nor is any statement ever rendered to those who contribute. Usually they have no voice in the question of whether they shall be required to strike or allowed to work."

It seems incredible that a business man of recognized standing should make such statements. They are even unworthy of Citizens' Alliance business agents who thrive on the credulity of small merchants.

After these misrepresentations, Judge Gary gave this notice that he will not defend his position:

"There is no desire or intention to provoke discussion, much less controversy, nor do more than hint at the disposition of employers in this country."

Evading controversy will not compose differences of opinion. Making serious charges and then running away does not close the incident.

The most casual reading of history should acquaint any one with the fact that the labor movement can not be airily swept aside. Nor will it remain silent when misrepresented.

It is not true that trade unionists do not control their movement; that they do not demand an accounting of monies collected and expended, or that their officials exercise autocratic or unauthorized power.

There can be no general concord or understanding between labor and capitalists as long as a considerable section of the latter profess such distressing ignorance of this country's greatest social phenomena.

These libels are not new to organized workers. Despite them labor has developed character, consciousness of right and an intelligent power for good that is felt in every social, economic, civic and political activity.

Wherever applied, labor's demand for democracy in industry has supplanted ignorance and intolerance that is ever associated with autocratic control.

It is unnecessary for Judge Gary to "hint" at the position of anti-union employers. Labor is well aware that their purpose is to feudalize industry.

They plead "freedom for labor" while they deny the one thing that will substitute fact for fiction.

Organized labor's best answer to the anti-union employer is to sweep the ground from under him by education and agitation.

Alabama's Convict Leasing Plan Disgraces State, Says Grand Jury

Birmingham, Ala., May 29.—In its report on brutal treatment of convicts at the Flat Top prison mine, the Jefferson county grand jury called on Governor Brandon to end the convict leasing system at once and save Alabama "from further justifiable nation-wide criticism."

The report was a terrific indictment of the administration of Warden Davis, now awaiting trial for the murder of one prisoner, and "the clique of convicts of the most dangerous type empowered by him to enforce discipline among convicts in the mine pits."

Aside from the condemnation of individuals in charge of the prison, the grand jury was emphatic against the leasing of convicts, and insisted that this system be abolished.

"Disclosures have been substantially verified and are conclusive to our minds," the report states, "that coal mines operated with convict labor by the state furnish too many opportunities to indulge in the most inhuman and brutal forms of punishment by officials toward convicts, and among the convicts themselves, and that its value as an instrument of reformation, which should be the main object of all legal punishments, is so small as to be negligible."

Discipline at the Flat Top mine, the investigators said, was directed solely toward the production of all possible coal, with the classification of convicts disregarded.

Houston, the convict "straw boss," who is serving a life sentence for murder, was shown to have received upward of $1,000 for extra coal loaded by the convicts under his contract from July 15, 1924, to April 30, 1926.

"This," the jury continued, "is the motive for the acts of brutality on the part of Houston—acts which were observed with complacency by the warden."

Ninety per cent of the convicts examined were declared to have exhibited scars, "reminders of encounters with brutal taskmasters."

CIVIL RIGHTS DENIED; UNIONS FILE PROTEST

Newark, N. J., May 29.—The Essex Trades Council makes vigorous protest to Governor Moore against outrages committed on Passaic textile strikers by county and city officials.

The strikers have rejected efforts by President McMahon and the United Textile Workers to affiliate with the regular trade union movement, but trade unionists declare that the rights of every person must be assured.

"This is not the first time," the unionists say, "that the constitutional rights of workers and citizens have been suspended by officials in towns and cities of New Jersey where textile mills are located, and we deem it time that a halt be called.

"If any striker in Passaic and Bergen counties have violated the law, New Jersey statutes provide for their punishment and failure to do so makes the authorities themselves to violate the constitution and deprive the people of their civil rights.

"The right of free speech, free press and free assemblage has been denied and we, as citizens of New Jersey, should enter a vigorous protest."

The resolutions urge the governor to investigate the unlawful practices of these public officials.

MACHINISTS' CHIEF RESIGNS; ILL HEALTH

Washington, May 29.—William H. Johnston has resigned as president of the International Association of Machinists. Arthur O. Wharton has been selected by the executive board to succeed him until the next election. The change will be effective July 1.

Mr. Johnston has been in poor health for several months. He has held office since 1912, when he succeeded James O'Connell, now president of the A. F. of L. Metal Trades Department.

The machinists' new executive is former president of the A. F. of L. Railway Employes' Department. He was a member of the labor group of the railroad labor board since its creation under the transportation act. This board passed out of existence with the president's approval of the Watson-Parker railroad bill.

CAR MEN DESERTING COMPANY "UNION"

New York, May 29.—Alarmed at the collapse of its company "union," the Interborough Rapid Transit Company revoked an order that would increase working hours.

Many of these workers are joining the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes, affiliated to the A. F. of L.

Representatives of the company "union" withdrew a request for higher wages. They say "the management has shown them that the financial condition of the company is such that no increase can be considered at this time."

Members of the legitimate trade union are not satisfied with the management's "evidence" nor with the ease with which the alleged "union" quits the fight for higher living standards."

LABOR URGES FARMERS' RELIEF TO KEEP FACTORY WHEELS BUSY

Washington, May 29.—By a non-partisan vote of 212 to 167 the house defeated the Haugen bill proposing government aid of $175,000,000 to farmers in the export crops. This would permit farmers to take advantage of the 42-cent-a-bushel tariff on wheat. Prices would be raised to that amount, less an 8-cent tax, called an equalization fee, the farmer would pay to equalize the difference between domestic and foreign prices.

Answering the charge that this increase would be reflected in the price of bread, friends of the bill say there is 2 cents' worth of wheat in a 10-cent loaf of bread, and that an increase of 34 cents in a bushel of wheat would mean such a small increase in bread costs that it could not be computed.

The Haugen bill was opposed by the administration. While it is agreed that farmers are leaving the farms by the thousands every year, and that those who remain are bankrupt or facing that condition, opponents of the bill affected to be horrified at what they term a $175,000,000 subsidy.

Friends of the bill insist that it is not a gift, but is a revolving fund for the nation's most important industry and that it is but "chicken feed" as compared with the billions of dollars handed to railroads and other business interests.

The farmer, it was shown, has no voice in setting prices for his wheat. He grows more than is required for domestic consumption. The balance is exported to Liverpool where it comes in competition with wheat from Canada and South America. The Liverpool price is the price the farmer gets for his domestic wheat.

"Drastic legislation" to relieve the farmers and check the increasing bankruptcy of agriculture was urged by Edgar Wallace, A. F. of L. legislative representative, before the House committee on agriculture.

The unionist emphasized that when the farmers can not buy, factories are idle and that the workers' welfare is inseparably linked with the farmers' prosperity.

"We feel a common interest with the farmers, because when they are prosperous we can get along," said Mr. Wallace. "When they are bankrupt, or when they are suffering from depression, we also feel that depression; and, whether farmers feel that community of interest or not, we feel it. Sometimes we believe they do not help us, but it does not make any difference. We are looking after our own interests as workers, but we feel that our interests are with the farmers' interests."

One congressman from the wheat belt presented this outline of how the Haugen bill would operate:

"The annual production of wheat in this country approximates 800,000,000 bushels. There is a surplus of 100,000,000 bushels. This is exported. Let us suppose the surplus was 800 bushels, of which 700 bushels is consumed here. The surplus of 100 bushels is shipped to Liverpool and sold in competition with wheat from other countries for, say, $1 a bushel. That $1 is accepted as the price for the 700 bushels here. This means that the farmer has no voice in the proceedings. When his 700 bushels are sold here, he is paid the Liverpool price.

"Under the Haugen bill the farmer would add the 42-cent tariff to the 700 bushels sold here. To equalize the difference between the $1.42 price and the $1 he receives in Liverpool for his surplus he would set off 8 cents on every bushel of his entire crop. This equalization fee, or tax, would be collected through the millers and would mean an approximate increase of 8 cents a bushel in the bundle the wheat crop while the fee was being collected is the purpose of the $175,000,000 revolving fund."

No question before this congress has been more hotly contested than farm relief. The farmers rejected several fake plans and are united for the Haugen bill. The question will be carried into the fall elections, and will have destroyed political alignments in the wheat and corn states."

NATION'S FATHERS WARNED OF PARTYISM

At the annual meeting of the National Industrial Council the primary system was denounced and these anti-union employers recommended that the people "get back without delay to the basis of responsible party government."

Primary elections is the result of party evils the N. I. C. overlooks or ignores. The people became enraged at caucus rule that scandalized patriots and brought the United States Senate, then known as the House of Lords, into popular contempt.

When our present system was launched the party system was unknown. No reference to it is found in the proceedings of the Constitutional convention.

Later, when men divided on the question of a centralized government or states' rights, the Father of his Country warned fellow citizens against the evils of partyism.

Washington's utterance was prophetic. He visioned evils that are now evident to every unselfish citizen.

"Responsible party government" is one of those catchy phrases that is intended to deceive. Those who use it seek privileges or special grants.

They dare not present their cause to the voters, but must depend on secrecy, party frenzy and caucus discipline that puts party expediency and party reward above their country's good.

FEDERAL PROBE SHOWS WEALTH DRIFTS TO FEW

Washington, May 29.—Interesting information on the concentration of wealth is included in a report issued by the Federal Trade Commission.

In estimating distribution of wealth among individuals, the commission examined 43,000 probate records in 24 typical counties and also estimated unprobated estates.

"On this basis," the commission said, "about 1 per cent of the number of decedents owned 59 per cent of the estimated anthracite coal; two companies owned one-half of the iron ore reserves; four companies, nearly one-half of the copper reserves."

HIGH COURT UPHOLDS NEGRO SEGREGATION

Washington, May 29.—The United States Supreme Court has ruled that white property owners can agree not to sell or lease their property to a negro.

The negro appellant who asked that a decision be rendered on this point, claimed that the defendant's action was a denial of the Fifth, Thirteenth and Fifteenth Amendments.

The court ruled that "none of these amendments prohibited private individuals from entering into contracts respecting the control and disposition of their own property."

HOUSE-TO-HOUSE DRIVE

San Francisco, May 29.—Organized workers have started a house-to-house campaign in favor of the union label. More than 400 members volunteered to distribute literature and explain that the label is a guarantee against low wages and Chinese and prison-made products.

OIL WORKERS TO MEET

Bakersfield, Cal., May 29.—The international convention of Oil Field, Gas Well and Refinery Workers will convene in this city June 7.

VALUE OF SUNSHINE UNKNOWN TO PUBLIC

Atlantic City, May 29.—The value of sunshine as a treatment for tuberculosis is unknown to the public, said William J. Bell, minister of health, Ontario, Canada, in an address to a convention of the American Health Congress.

"The manner in which sunshine acts in order to produce such cures is still but poorly understood," he said. "The evidence of its beneficial action is, however, sufficiently clear cut to warrant us in believing it is a powerful stimulant of the natural defenses of the body against tuberculosis and probably against many other infections as well. It is reasonable to think that sunshine is just as essential for the development and health of a child as is food."

Dr. Frederick F. Tisdall of Toronto said mothers should be told of the importance of sunlight as a factor in the production of healthy infants.

HARD FIGHT RECALLED BY UNION OPPONENTS

Detroit, Mich., May 29.—Street car men employed on the municipal lines of this city are negotiating a new wage increase and the anti-union element among business men is silent.

The last attempt to raise wages was met by the formation of a company "union," but the car men were loyal, and their solidarity made division impossible. So the union busters are not getting interviewed in the public press.

"ANTI-TRUST LAW IS A DEAD LETTER"

By HON. FRANK R. GOODING
United States Senator from Idaho

It is impossible to correct evils of our industrial system through the Sherman anti-trust law, the Clayton act and the Federal Trade Commission.

I have not forgotten that when we had one of the Assistant Attorneys-General before the Interstate Commerce Committee he told the story of how they transact business in these days. They do it around the table. There is no record of any conspiracy or any combination to increase prices. They do it in a very simple way. In an investigation by the government of the General Electric Company it was shown that while the sale of the right bulbs constitutes only 20 per cent of the business of that company, their profits from the sale of bulbs are 80 per cent of the total profits of the company.

Under the improved methods of doing business the Sherman anti-trust law is pretty nearly a dead letter on the statute books.

It is not enforced and never has been enforced, and under the present methods of doing business it is practically impossible to enforce it.

Child Labor Industries Harmful; Greater Evil Than Convict Labor

Atlantic City, May 29.—Competition in the sale of the products of 2,000,000 child wage earners is a greater menace to adult breadwinners and manufacturers than is the competition in the sale of the products of 20,000 convicts, declared William Green, president of the A. F. of L., before the convention of the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

"While employers' associations and chambers of commerce, strange to say, are fighting federal legislation which will take children out of the workshops and factories, they are at the same time fighting against the sale of prison-made goods on the open market," he said.

"Where the sale of convict-made goods has been prohibited the chief reason for such action was that the convicts displace the free worker. In like manner the child displaces the adult wage earner."

He declared that it is the natural right of all children to be free from bodily toil and the crushing discipline of time.

President Green called attention to the fact that states that voted for the prohibition, federal income tax and women suffrage amendments voted against federal legislation to protect the lives of children.

He ridiculed claims that the child labor amendment, if ratified, will prevent a girl from helping her mother do housework or prevent a boy from helping his father on the farm.

The farmers of the United States have been credited with doing great harm to our country, he said. "They have been easy victims of misrepresentation and malicious propaganda."

The failure of some states to properly protect children was declared to be responsible for the submission of the amendment to protect child life.

PLASTERERS UNITE

Glendale, Cal., May 29.—Plasterers have organized and are affiliated to the trade union movement.

President Has Signed Mediation Bill; Rail Disputes To Be Held In Industry

Washington, May 29.—The president has signed the Watson-Parker railroad bill. The measure was urged by organized railroad employes and by a majority of the carriers.

The bill was opposed by the National Association of Manufacturers and farmers' organizations on the ground that the public is not protected and that labor wages may be reflected by increased freight and passenger rates. These opponents urged that the Interstate Commerce Commission pass on wage increases.

In signing the bill, the president indicated that he did not approve it in its entirety. When the senate was considering the measure it was announced that the administration was not behind it.

"I should have preferred some more definite declaration for the protection of the public, but should the operation of the plan demonstrate such protection is needed it can easily be supplied by a future congress," said the president.

The plan provides for collective bargaining through joint adjustment boards and then arbitration. Where these fail, a permanent board of arbitration appointed by the president may intervene.

In the event that this board of arbitration fails to adjust any important dispute the president is empowered to appoint an emergency commission to investigate and announce the rights and wrongs of the case.

Advocates of the bill are confident that the public's interests are protected through the presidential commission. If the railroaders' plan were adopted, the Interstate Commerce Commission would have final power of wage agreements.

The bill abolishes the Railroad Labor Board, created under the Esch-Cummins Transportation Act. The public was represented on that board, and its authors insisted it was the last word for machinery to adjust industrial disputes. Chairman Hooper, a member of the public group, destroyed his usefulness in the nation-wide shop men's strike when he denounced that movement.

Under the new bill a larger share of responsibility for continuous operation of the roads and for a settlement of disputes is placed on the carriers and employes.

In the event that this board of arbi-

HOLD MUSCLE SHOALS, SAY ALABAMA WORKERS

Sheffield, Ala., May 29.—The leasing of Muscle Shoals "would create a precedent dangerous dominion over the people of the south," declared the convention of the Alabama State Federation of Labor.

The delegates unanimously instructed officials to write to the president, to members of congress and to Wm. Green, president of the A. F. of L., a condemnation of the efforts of the power trust and allied interests which seek to control the Shoals.

Muscle Shoals being utilized for broad benefit, as originally designed, and for which the hard-earned dollars of taxpayers were used," the resolution states, "Muscle Shoals is in the shadow of capitalistic domination, controlled by the dark forces of political intrigue.

"The possession of Muscle Shoals by private interests that would exploit these great properties for their own selfish aims is in opposition to the purposes of the development of the Shoals and is an insult to the integrity and stability of American government."

The convention urged each delegate to give the widest publicity to these sentiments that this great natural resource may not be lost to the people.

HOSIERY WORKERS REVIVE OLD-TIME UNION SPIRIT

Philadelphia, May 29.—Hosiery workers, affiliated to the United Textile Workers, have revived the old-time union spirit in their shop-to-shop organizing campaign.

The unionists ate a hurried lunch and spend the noon hour visiting unorganized shops where literature is distributed.

This has brought large numbers of the unorganized into the union, and every Tuesday and Friday two members are kept busy for hours entering new names on the roll.

The unionists aided unorganized in several shops to abolish a speeding-up system and many of these knitters joined the union.

CASEY HAS "CINCH"

Wilkes-Barre, Pa., May 29.—John J. Casey, member of the Plumbers' union, and elected three times to Congress, is a candidate for renomination. This time he has a "cinch."

The workers turned out at the primaries and helped him on the Republican and Democratic tickets.

TOLERANCE IS URGED

Richland Centre, Wis., May 29.—Tolerance in politics was urged by State Senator Levitan in an address here. He said unfair criticism and mud slinging debars many men from running for office, and that prejudice figures largely in our balloting.

"Race, religion and political creeds are made the determining factors, rather than fitness of men for office," he said.

"When we learn to judge men and measure men in the light of public good and from that standpoint only, then we shall have a fairness in politics and a better administration of government in state and nation."

FAKE OIL STOCK SOLD ON ROCKEFELLER ROAD

Washington, May 29.—Not satisfied with enforcing onerous working conditions, the Western Maryland railroad management compelled employes to buy stock in a fake oil company. This was developed at a senate hearing on the several months' strike of engineers and firemen on that line.

The stock deal was not denied by President Byers, but he assured senators that the stock is no longer sold.

The hearings were attended by public officials, clergymen, business men and farmers who live along the struck line, and they are in sympathy with the workers. It was shown that John D. Rockefeller, jr., refused the strikers' plea to use his good offices in securing an adjustment of the strike on the ground that he owns "only" 25 per cent of the Western Maryland stock.

This statement was questioned by W. A. Thompson, grand chief of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers. He said that any one who has had dealings with railroads knows that Western Maryland officials would not dare defy Mr. Rockefeller, and that the workers have reasons that railroad a Rockefeller property.

One brakeman said he was discharged because he refused to make false statements in connection with a runaway train that was manned by strikebreakers.

FUR STRIKE PICKETS SUSTAINED BY COURT

New York, May 29.—For the first time in more than three months the tide has turned in favor of striking fur workers, who have been arrested and clubbed by police. Nearly half a hundred of these workers were discharged by Magistrate Brodsky, who censured the police for "undue zeal."

The prisoners were standing on the sidewalk in front of the headquarters of their employers' association, when they were rounded up by mounted police and thrown into patrol wagons.

In releasing the prisoners, Magistrate Brodsky said that, such interference by the police tampants to peaceful picketing by a legitimate element, who are entitled to every protection in their desire to better their conditions."

LABOR BANKS REPORTED

Washington, May 29.—There are 23 banks in the United States that are operated by unions affiliated to or recognized by the A. F. of L.

The names of the banks, with their resources are printed in a report issued by the A. F. of L.

For a limited number to organizers, President Green requests these trade unionists to make the list as complete as possible and report any labor bank that is not included or that is being organized.

BAKERS GET $2 GAIN

Rock Island, Ill., May 29.—A wage increase of $2 a week has been secured by bakers in the Tri-Cities—Rock Island, Moline and Davenport.